



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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International Affairs: FMs Agree on Formation of Lusophone Community

MB1904090696 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Lusophone foreign ministers meeting to prepare for the creation of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries, CPLP, ended in Maputo on 18 April. The ministers agreed that a Lusophone heads of state summit will be held in Lisbon on 17 July, during which the CPLP will be launched.

A communique issued at the end of the meeting says the ministers unanimously approved a set of principles and goals to be included in the declaration and statutes creating the CPLP. The ministers pledged to encourage mutual cooperation in the cultural, socioeconomic, technical, and scientific areas; to promote political and diplomatic solutions; and to make efforts aimed at protecting the environment, upholding human rights, and eradicating racism, racial discrimination, and xenophobia.

In their final communique, the ministers noted the grave implications of drug trafficking and the serious threat it poses to the well-being of peoples and to socioeconomic development efforts made by their countries. Thus, the ministers agreed to promote the exchange of information on prevailing drug laws in their countries, and to effectively cooperate in the fight against the drug problem that is becoming a world scourge. They approved Brazil's proposal on the signing of cooperation accords between CPLP countries to reduce the demand for drugs, to prevent the unlawful use of drugs, and to fight the production and illegal trafficking of drugs and psychotropic substances.

The Lusophone foreign ministers stated their solidarity with the Angolan Government for its commitment to the rapid implementation of the Lusaka Protocol with a view to consolidating peace and national reconciliation. They saluted the UN's dedication to the peace process, and appealed for the urgent allocation of means and indispensable resources for the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol in this crucial phase of the Angolan peace process.

The ministers reiterated their willingness to continue promoting concerted efforts with the United Nations and other fora to uphold the legitimate rights of the people of East Timor to self-determination, and stated their profound concern over the continual human rights violations in that territory.

Closing the meeting, Mozambican Foreign Minister Leonardo Simao said:

[Begin Simao recording] We have come to the end of a two-day meeting that analyzed the basic documents for the creation of the CPLP. [passage omitted] The debates were held in a friendly and open atmosphere, and have strengthened the common view that the creation of CPLP is irreversible. The ties that united our peoples and countries are an objective factor, underlining the imperative need to create an area that complements those ties on the basis of equality, sovereignty, and mutual benefits. [end recording]

International Affairs: EU Pledges \$20 Billion for Development Aid

MB1704201096 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1457 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LUSAKA April 17 Sapa-DPA — The European Union (E.U.) has earmarked 20 billion dollars for economic development of African, Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) states in the next four years, according to an E.U. report released in the Zambian capital Lusaka Wednesday. The report says the financial assistance would be made available to ACP states until the year 2000.

According to the protocol of the revised Lome IV Convention signed between the 70 ACP and 15 E.U. members last November, the funding would be sourced from the European Development Fund (EDF).

A special financing facility will be set up for ACP countries whose economies revolved on mining sectors but encountered problems in sustaining and capitalising their economies. The E.U. would determine the deserving states plagued by intractable difficulties, perceived or foreseeable in future, says the report.

The Lome Convention IV will also help countries dependent on one mining product to diversify and broaden the bases of their economic growth. Some of the countries would be assisted to complete their development projects and programmes in boosting their otherwise moribund economies.

International Affairs: South African Minister Woos German Investors

MB1804174896 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1428 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] HAMBURG April 18 SAPA — Southern Africa's relatively under-explored mineral resources offered interesting opportunities for foreign investors, Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha told German business leaders on Thursday.

Addressing the Afrika Verein association in Hamburg, Germany, he said the region exported most of its

minerals without any value being added. "This presents numerous possibilities for German entrepreneurship."

The Afrika Verein association represents about 85 percent of German companies, institutions and individuals with trade and economic interests in Africa.

Botha said southern Africa was an important supplier of chromite, copper, cobalt, diamonds, gold, manganese and uranium. "Except for South Africa, the mineral resources of the Southern African Development Community countries are relatively under-explored and offer interesting opportunities for overseas investors."

It was true that several obstacles had to be overcome if Africa south of the Sahara was to attract more investment. These included an undeveloped financial sector and a weak infrastructure, he said.

"However, SADC is actively working towards some policy objectives such as the creation of an investor-

friendly and stable political climate, greater investment capital mobility and the harmonisation of rules and regulations."

Botha said African countries had largely abandoned what he said was their failed post-colonial economic experiment and had embarked on serious economic reforms. Several had significantly changed their mining investment laws in the past 10 years.

Thanking the association for its involvement with Africa, Botha urged the body to convert this interest into realistic enterprises. "We in south and southern Africa have the natural and human resources," he said. "We accept the exigencies of competitiveness. But we also ask you: do not exclude our products in order to protect some of your sectors. Our progress towards greater prosperity is directly in your interests. You stand to gain much from the development of markets in southern Africa."

**Inter-African Affairs: RSA Export Drive Said
'Causing Havoc' in Africa**

MB2204100496 Johannesburg THE STAR (BUSINESS
REPORT Supplement) in English 22 Apr 96 p 8

[Report by Joe Khamisi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nairobi — Is South Africa using its trade policy to balkanise the rest of the continent? This question is becoming increasingly common as the country's commercial tentacles penetrate poverty-stricken sub-Saharan nations.

From the tiny islands of Mauritius and Reunion to Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, South African exports are causing havoc among local industries.

Oduor Ong'Wen, a Kenyan analyst, says that "within a period of just two years of acceptability, South Africa has managed to expand far beyond its traditional captive markets of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland."

Critics say this expansion has not been entirely fair. South Africa is accused of providing subsidies for its export industries, imposing high tariff rates and trade controls for imports and "generally behaving like a spoilt child", as one Kenyan put it.

"It appears that the South Africanisation of sub-Saharan Africa is complete," one Tanzanian businessman said.

Statistics provided by the South African trade ministry show a pattern of trade imbalances. Between January and May last year, South Africa's exports to Tanzania were 50 times greater than its imports; to Uganda, 30 times; to Kenya, 20 times; to Zambia, 11 times; to Nigeria, seven times; and to Zimbabwe, five times.

Most African countries exported mainly mineral products, plastic articles and textiles to South Africa. South Africa in turn sold base metals, machinery and mechanical appliances, aircraft, vehicles and a wide range of equipment and manufactured articles.

In hotel lounges throughout the continent, briefcase-carrying South African entrepreneurs have replaced Europeans. One Kenyan described them as aggressive and uncompromising when it comes to business.

The re-emergence of the country into the world arena came at the start of painful efforts at economic liberalisation in most African countries. After more than 30 years, many African nations toyed with state controlled monopolies that left little room for competition. Poor labour conditions led to low morale and shoddy quality. Sub-Saharan countries were consequently unable to compete beyond their borders.

Most countries felt they were not given enough time to prepare for reforms, and the influx of high quality South African goods caught many manufacturers by surprise.

Consumers, unused to unlimited product choice, rushed to buy attractively packaged imports and abandoned local brands. Shelves that had been dominated by local and European goods soon gave way to South African products at lower prices, from apples to electronics, canned beer to cars.

Plants across the continent began to fold, putting thousands of workers out of work. In Zimbabwe, the manufacturing share of GDP dwindled from 25 percent in 1991 to 23.5 percent in 1994. According to Standard Chartered Bank, manufacturing in the country slumped a further 14 percent in the first nine months of last year.

In Zambia, manufacturing production has shrunk by one third in the past four years.

In Kenya, BMWs and Volkswagen Golfs from South Africa have become status symbols. "We are not opposed to competing but there must be some basic rules in the game to be observed by everybody," Maina Karuki, of Coca Cola Northern Africa, says.

Both Kenya and Zimbabwe have asked South Africa to provide a more level playing field by not impeding imports from the rest of the continent.

Frustrated by South Africa's supposed protectionism, Kenyan officials say that its canned products do not meet required standards. They say they are packed in 340ml cans whereas Kenyan regulations require them to be in quantities of 300ml, 355ml, 500ml or 750ml.

To top it all, the Protea Group is reported to be planning eight tourist lodges in Kenya and Eskom [Electricity Supply Commission] intends buying into the Kenya Power and Lighting Company, a parastatal awaiting privatisation.

**Inter-African Affairs: Comesa States Lament
Structural Adjustment Programs**

MB1804160696 Lusaka THE POST in English
18 Apr 96

[Report by Chilombo Mwendela; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Members of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Comesa, have agreed that Structural Adjustment Programs (SAP) have drastically affected their economies.

At a meeting of the Comesa intergovernmental committee which ended yesterday, representatives of the member countries discussed the ever worsening position of the African countries in international trade.

It was observed that SAPs in Comesa countries are being hastily implemented thus leading to some loopholes being left unsealed. A report on the meeting also revealed that foreign businessmen are taking advantage of these loopholes to grab the markets leaving local industries with nothing to hold on to.

Though the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have lauded countries such as Uganda for successful implementation of SAP, there is growing concern that the victims of progress, that is, those made redundant and others left unemployed because of the scarcity of jobs, might present another problem of great social consequences.

It was felt that a lot of local business initiatives are dying out in the face of stiff competition from well established foreign companies entering the market with the added advantage of incentives.

Domestic production in the region has been reduced and there have been acute shortages of food necessitating high imports which have been a major drain on scarce foreign exchange reserves.

The meeting adopted corrective measures which will be announced in a report from the Comesa ministers' meeting which starts today.

Inter-African Affairs: ANAD Summit Ends, Establishes Peacekeeping Force

*AB1904184196 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1215 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] In Nouakchott, the Non-Aggression and Defense Aid Agreement [ANAD] summit must be ending by now. Jean Valere Mbina Mandza is on the line from Nouakchott. Jean Valere can you hear me?

[Mandza] Good afternoon, Francois-Luc. I can hear you very well.

[Moukouangui] Have the deliberations ended?

[Mandza] Indeed, the second extraordinary ANAD summit has just ended at Nouakchott. I know that you will want to find out if the extraordinary summit was expected to make major decisions. Let me tell you, without wanting to exaggerate the importance of the summit's outcome, that major decisions have been made.

You must understand that this summit will go down in the annals of history for making a decision — and a very important one — to set up a peacekeeping force to serve ANAD member countries. This decision is all the more important because it has given concrete expression to the concerns that subregional countries have constantly been voicing as a result of the constant surge in the crime wave, caused by population explosion in major cities and arms trafficking.

[Moukouangui] Concerning these two points, what concrete decisions have been made?

[Mandza] ANAD's secretary general has been asked to convene as soon as possible a meeting of security heads in the subregion to make more concrete decisions on crime and arms trafficking. You know that ANAD member countries, like Mali and Niger, have for a long time been faced with problems of rebellion, while Senegal has its Casamance problem, and the various rebel groups have been thriving on arms trafficking. It must also be noted that it has been decided to enlarge the ANAD. Consequently, an appeal has been made to other subregional countries to join the organization.

Let me end with two important facts. First, it must be noted that Togo was absent from the summit. It seems that the Togolese are balking due to the lukewarm attitude shown by the ANAD when a commando from Ghana attacked Lome. Second, when the summit ended, Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare granted audience to Niger's defense minister who represented at the summit Colonel Barre Mainassara, who was on a visit to Gabon explaining why he seized power in Niger. This is being seen as a sign of detente because, as you may remember, in the wake of the 27 January military overthrow in Niamey, President Konare was one of the African leaders who spoke against the coup d'etat.

Inter-African Affairs: Cross Reference on Denuclearization of Africa Conference

WA2204122696

For reportage on the conference on the denuclearization of Africa and the Pelindaba Treaty signing in Cairo, Egypt, see the International Affairs section of the 11 April Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Central African Republic

Central African Republic: President Patasse 'Hiding' in French Camp

AB1904160396 London BBC World Service
in English 1505 GMT 19 Apr 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBI Transcribed Text] Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, is still a very tense city. Disgruntled soldiers took to the streets yesterday in a mutiny demanding payment of their salaries and protesting against the government of President Ange Patasse. They haven't been paid for months. They marched to the presidential palace and there is a standoff between the mutineers and presidential guards. They also surrounded the radio station. There were appeals for them to return to barracks and promises that they would be paid today. Well, they obviously didn't believe it. The mutineers are still on the streets and apparently their numbers are increasing. Emilia French asked our Bangui correspondent, Joseph Benamsse, what the situation was today:

[Begin recording] [Benamsse] The situation is now getting worse and independent sources said that this morning there were frictions between the presidential guard and the mutineers. Following the clashes between the two camps, four presidential guards were dead. In the meantime, medical sources confirm that two people were dead and the two bodies are now in the mortuary at the communal hospital. The same sources confirm that more than 20 injured people are currently being treated in the communal hospital.

[French] Do you have any indication of who these the dead people are?

[Benamsse] The two dead people are civilians.

[French] So, what is the government now doing about this?

[Benamsse] The government is not doing anything. Since it started, the government has not said anything, apart from the declaration the defense minister, no official comments so far, and the national radio is not operating since 0730 this morning.

[French] And is there any indication of the whereabouts of the president?

[Benamsse] So far the only information we have is that the head of state is currently in hiding in the French military camp in the capital, Bangui.

[French] So, given the situation, are people talking about a coup?

[Benamsse] People in the country are fearful of an eventual coup d'etat, but it is too early to say that the mutineers are going to stage a coup. But given that these people are getting more and more aggressive, we can expect such a situation in hours to come or in days to come, if the situation does not get under control in the meantime.

[French] When you say that they are becoming more aggressive, what have they done today?

[Benamsse] They are now shooting live ammunition everywhere.

[French] And have they yet taken any areas of the city?

[Benamsse] Yes, they have already taken the [place name indistinct] in the capital, Bangui, as well as the radio transmitter.

[French] There have been reports that French troops have been deployed at the airport. Is this true?

[Benamsse] Yes, 130 (?paratroopers) have been deployed around the international airport of Bangui-Mpoko. And also some camps around the airport.

[French] So, what are ordinary people doing today in the city?

[Benamsse] Well, ordinary people remain at home. You cannot see many people in the streets. Only curious youngsters are moving around the streets ready to loot some shops if the occasion comes.

[French] So, banks, shops, and stores are closed, are they?

[Benamsse] Yes, everything is closed in the capital, Bangui today. [end recording]

Central African Republic: Nine Killed, 40 Injured in Bangui Clashes

LD1904191596 Paris Radio France International
in French 1730 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation has worsened in Bangui on the second day of the mutiny staged by part of the army in the Central African Republic. The uprising that brought together about 80 soldiers yesterday has increased in scale and the number of mutineers has grown to about 400. These mutineers are demanding the payment of their wages. Shooting has continued and a toll of at least nine people killed and about 40 others injured has been announced. Over to you Jean-Jacques Louarne:

[Louarne] It seems that calm has returned to Bangui since about 1530 local time, even if some firing was heard in the capital just over half an hour ago. According

to the Red Cross, the clashes between forces loyal to President Ange-Felix Patasse and the mutineers, which had taken place by midday, claimed the lives of 9 people, including four rebel soldiers and five civilians, and 35 others injured.

The president of the Central African Republic is now gathering views so as to get the funds that will cover overdue salaries. A spokesman for the mutineers told us over the phone earlier: We will return to our barracks if we are paid.

French units have been deployed in the capital so as to ensure the safety of French and foreign nationals. French helicopters have been flying over Bangui since the beginning of the afternoon.

Paris has reiterated, quote, its support for the Central African democratic institutions, unquote. French soldiers protect the presidential palace and President Ange-Felix Patasse, who is in his residence, is expected to announce later the payment of overdue salaries. The mutiny might perhaps end as of this evening.

The French Foreign Ministry has denied reports according to which President Patasse had taken refuge in the French military base. The Quai d'Orsay [Foreign Ministry] added that the Central African head of state was to announce this evening the payment of soldiers' salaries. This measure should satisfy fully the mutineers as this is their main demand.

Let us listen now to a spokesman of the mutineers, who is an noncommissioned officer, and preferred to remain anonymous:

[Begin spokesman recording] We have continued to receive the salary of a second class private, i.e. 29,041 francs, CFA, for 15 to 16 years. Our living conditions are very mediocre, we are wronged, and we are exposed to diseases. This is why we have left the barracks. We made these demands from our barracks but to no avail. We are forced to take to the streets. We have no intention of destabilizing the regime; President Patasse was democratically elected.

Here are our demands:

1. We demand the payment of overdue salaries of 1992, 1993, and 1996.
2. The unfreezing of salaries.
3. The re-dynamization and improvement of the status of the Central African Armed Forces.

We pay for the uniform that costs 25,000 francs, a pair of boots costs 25,000 francs, and we receive 29,041 francs and we have families with children.

4. We demand that no legal proceedings take place after the mutiny, since we will stop today. We call on Amnesty International, and we agree to stop the mutiny this Friday evening. [end recording]

Central African Republic: French Forces Deployed To Protect Expatriates

LD1904193596 Paris France-Info Radio in French
1600 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] French military units, which are stationed in Bangui, were deployed in the Central African capital. The French soldiers have the duty for the moment to ensure the safety of French and other foreign nationals. Part of the Central African army has been staging a mutiny for 48 hours as the soldiers have not been paid for several months.

Central African Republic: France Declares Support for President Patasse

AB1904195596 Paris AFP in French
1807 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 19 Apr (AFP) — France supports Central African President Ange-Felix Patasse, who is confronted with a mutiny of soldiers demanding pay arrears, a French diplomatic source said in Paris today. "We support President Ange-Felix Patasse, who is the democratically elected president, and we are taking measures to help him defend himself," the source told AFP.

The French Foreign Ministry has said in a communique that France condemns "any attempt to subvert the legal order in the Central African Republic and intend to help the democratically established institutions to defend constitutional order and promote peace." A reliable source in Paris said the Central African president may soon announce that he will be able to pay the soldiers as measures have been taken in that direction.

Besides, "a military force will be deployed around the presidential palace," the source added, denying reports that Mr. Patasse was taking refuge at a French military base. According to authorized sources in Paris, President Patasse was in his residence this afternoon. According to sources, French units stationed at Bangui were deployed in the capital, Bangui, today, especially between Bangui Airport and the French Embassy, to ensure the security of French nationals and foreigners. These measures were taken in agreement with Central African authorities.

The French Government "is obviously very attentive to the security of its citizens and other foreigners, and all necessary measures that needed to be taken in the present situation have been taken," according to the

Foreign Ministry communique. The population is calm and the number of mutineers has not increased since the start of the mutiny and is still about 100 to 200, a diplomatic source said this afternoon, denying reports from Bangui that mutineers who seized the radio station have been reinforced. According to various sources, armed clashes took place in central Bangui late this morning between the mutineers and presidential security guards who have remained loyal to the government, claiming several lives.

Central African Republic: Patasse Urges Mutineers To Resist Manipulation

LD1904203096 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Let us return to the Central African Republic, to Bangui, where we were able to speak a few minutes ago to Ange [Felix] Patasse, the president of the Central African Republic. Jean-Jacques Louarne asked him an initial question: What message does he address to the population, and in particular to the mutineers? Ange Patasse said:

[Begin recording] [Patasse] I would quite simply like to say: the Central African Republic has committed itself to a democratic process, and this system is irreversible. I believe in resolving the problems which concern our army, which I wanted to turn into an elite army. Today, with this situation which exists, I quite simply ask them not to give in to political manipulation. I say quite simply that their problem is a problem of duty, and in my capacity as head of the armed forces I requisition the government [as heard] in order for a positive solution to be found as soon as possible. To this end, a crisis commission has been set up, and I am personally following this situation. I have asked all the soldiers to go back to their bases, their posts, because since this morning we have begun to pay them; and on this point I consider their demands to be just. So for my part, I would quite simply not like to sanction our army, because it is my army, my army, yes. So that is why I believe the message has been received.

[Louarne] Have you reached an agreement this evening, this Friday evening, with the mutineers, Mr. President?

[Patasse] In principle, in principle, the true patriots, and I mean the true patriots are [pauses] have understood the message.

[Louarne] Have you reached an agreement this evening on the overdue salaries?

[Patasse] As I speak to you, three months' salary has been paid or is being paid. [end recording]

Central African Republic: 'No Signs' of Mutineers: French Troops Patrolling

AB2004130996 Paris AFP in English
0856 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BANGUI, April 20 (AFP) — French troops stationed in the Central African Republic were patrolling the streets of the capital Bangui on Saturday [20 April] a day after nine people were killed in fighting between mutinous soldiers and troops loyal to the government.

French soldiers and local police forces had taken control of the city and the violence and gunfire which had rocked the centre of town Friday petered out overnight.

The radio station, which the mutineers besieged Thursday to demand back-pay, resumed broadcasts Saturday morning. It made no comments on the violence which gripped Bangui on Friday, but said merely that nine people — four mutineers and five civilians — had been killed and 40 others injured.

There was no signs Saturday morning of the mutinous soldiers, thought to number between 100 and 200. Late on Friday, The republic's president, Ange-Felix Patasse, told Radio France Internationale in Bangui that the soldiers had started to receive their wages again.

The unrest began Thursday when the soldiers besieged the radio station in the capital Bangui to demand three months' back pay.

The violence escalated Friday as members of the presidential security guard loyal to the government resisted the mutineers. Mortar fire was heard during the fighting in the centre of town and a military helicopter came under fire when it overflowed the scene.

French army units which have a military base at Bangui airport moved into town and were deployed around the city to ensure the security of French and foreign nationals.

Central African Republic: President Says Situation 'Returning to Normal'

AB2004133396 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1215 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Shooting has ceased in Bangui, thanks to an appeal for calm by President Ange-Felix Patasse, and to a lesser extent by the deployment of the French Army. In fact, the calm in Bangui is rather precarious because the mutineers are still resisting in their Kasai barracks. At any rate, President Ange-Felix has declared that he is in complete control of the situation.

[Begin Patasse recording] I could have ordered a cease-fire, but I did not want to do so because I have confidence in my Army. I consider at this moment that the situation is returning to normal. The soldiers have been paid, but we would like to go further than that. It is not enough to just pay them. We would like to find the means and ways of preventing such a situation from recurring. The Army knows that in my negotiations with the IMF and the World Bank I refused the downsizing of the Army. However, I do understand them and that is why I am ready to go and meet with them when calm returns, and calm is returning. [end recording]

However, Sergeant Fabien Jalunda, one of the mutineers, insists that contrary to the information circulating in Bangui the main pay arrears of the mutineers has not been paid.

[Begin Jalunda recording] I wish to assure you that no money has been paid to the soldiers since the mutiny. We would also like to say that the mutineers control the situation entirely in Bangui. There are military patrols throughout the town. We would also like President Patasse to understand that the Army is an institution worthy of the Republic. We are not being manipulated and we cannot be manipulated. Consequently, President Patasse must take measures and show proof of a politician worthy his office. We are assuming our responsibilities while respecting the Republic's institutions. [end recording]

Central African Republic: Minister Confirms Payment to Soldiers

AB2104135596 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1215 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] There is a progressive return to calm in Bangui, Central African Republic, where the streets are still under tight French military control, three days after a section of the Army mutinied to back their demand for a three-month pay arrears.

A number of mutineers have handed in their weapons after receiving their salaries. In a radio broadcast yesterday, Territorial Administration Minister Dieudonne Thierry Kiandji, said that three months' salaries have been paid to all the soldiers and that the government was ready to engage in dialogue.

Central African Republic: Mutineers Demand Amnesty; Opposition Denies Role

AB2104175696 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 21 Apr 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Three different sets of security forces have been out on the streets in the Central African Republic since last Thursday's [17 April] army mutiny. The mutineers are being opposed by the regular army and by French soldiers who are guarding strategic buildings at the request of President Ange-Felix Patasse who was himself forced to take refuge in the French garrison. Some reports spoke of death toll in clashes between loyalists and mutineers at 13. The mutineers (?are after) several months of backpay and although they have now been paid on the direct orders of the president, the standoff continues. On the line, Mary Harper asked our correspondent in Bangui, Joseph Benamsse, what his latest information was:

[Begin recording] [Benamsse] The situation here in the capital, Bangui, is apparently calm today. The mutineers are still in the streets but the leader of the mutineers has just addressed the nation and he asked President Ange-Felix Patasse to sign a decree granting amnesty to all the mutineers before they go back to barracks.

[Harper] And what about the money? Have the mutineers started to receive their salaries yet?

[Benamsse] Apparently, they have already got their money and this has been confirmed by their leader.

[Harper] But basically, they are afraid that unless they are given this amnesty, they are going to get into trouble; is that why they are refusing to go back to barracks?

[Benamsse] This is why they refuse to go back to barracks, but they said that as soon as the decree is signed, they will go back to barracks.

[Harper] Is it likely that the president will grant them an amnesty, given that they have created so much trouble and that a number of people have even been killed?

[Benamsse] I think that the head of state is obliged to sign this decree, because since yesterday, the head of state promised not to retaliate upon the mutineers, but as the mutineers are now asking the head of state to sign a document over it, I think that he is going to sign it within the next few hours.

[Harper] And has the government said anything else about this mutiny?

[Benamsse] Oh yes, the minister of home affairs went on the radio yesterday and he accused the opposition of being behind the mutiny.

[Harper] Is there any truth in that?

[Benamsse] There is no truth, because the leader of the mutineers had denied this accusation.

[Harper] And what about the opposition? Have they responded to this accusation?

[Benamsse] The opposition also have denied the accusation, but they cannot say it on the national radio because they are denied access to the national radio.

[Harper] So, basically, do they now look at this mutiny as coming to an end? That things are really quite turning down?

[Benamsse] Yes, it appears that the mutiny is coming to an end, but the most important problem now, is for the head of state to sign the document the mutineers wanted him to do. [end recording]

Central African Republic: President Promises No Prosecution for Mutineers

LD2104213196 Paris Radio France International
in French 1730 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In the Central African Republic, the situation has progressively returned to normal this evening. Late this afternoon, a spokesman for the army mutineers announced on national radio the end of the uprising which began on Thursday in Bangui to obtain payment of overdue salaries; and this evening there has been a speech broadcast on radio and television by President Patasse, who specifies that the mutineers will not be prosecuted. Jean-Jacques Louarne, you bring us the details:

[Louarne] Yes, well, President Patasse's first speech ended just half an hour ago. Since the middle of the afternoon, as you have said, it has been known that the mutiny is over. In a communique, the mutineers announced it, and this meant an agreement had been reached. Ange-Felix Patasse has announced that the mutineer soldiers will not be prosecuted if they return this evening to barracks. A committee responsible for making proposals on soldiers' working and living conditions will be set up. My ambition is to make my army an elite army, the president declared. Finally, a general defense assembly will soon be called, and Ange-Felix Patasse has acknowledged — I quote — that the mutineers were in fact exclusively motivated by demands linked to salaries and living conditions. This contradicts the view of some of his ministers, who have accused the opposition of manipulating the soldiers' anger.

Rwanda

Rwanda: Two Soldiers Arrested After Killing Civilians

EA1904112096 Kigali Radio Rwanda in English
0515 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Reports from Ruhengeri [northern Rwanda] prefecture say that security officials in the area have arrested Sergeant (Christopher Nzabonima) and Private (Forcas Rurangirua) who are accused of killing and looting two people who were travelling in a car to Ruhengeri. The criminals also later attacked the home of (Naruhanda) who was killed in the attack.

The attacks took place in Nyamutera commune of Ruhengeri prefecture on Tuesday, 16th of this month. After the attack, security officials in Ruhengeri immediately arrested the criminals, and yesterday the area military commander, Colonel Ngoga, with the prefect of Ruhengeri, (Carl) [word indistinct], convened a meeting with local residents of Nyamutera commune, and exposed the criminals to the local residents of the area. [passage omitted]

Rwanda: RDR Chairman Protests International Disregard for Refugees

BR1904142796 Groot-Bijgaarden DE STANDAARD
in Dutch 19 Apr 96 p 7

[Article by Axel Buyse and Rik De Gendt: "Rwandan Refugees Have No Voice"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brussels — A solution for the nearly 2 million Rwandan refugees has still not been found because the individuals concerned do not have a voice. Not in Rwanda and not within the international forum. That is the view of Francois Nzabahimana, chairman of the Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy to Rwanda (RDR), expressed in an interview with DE STANDAARD.

The RDR claims that it has sufficient support to provide the "representation for the refugees" which is lacking. Nzabahimana claims that more than 100,000 refugees have written expressing their support for his organization. Last February, in the Zairian city of Bukavu, the RDR leadership held a three-day congress attended by 120 representatives of refugees from Zaire, Tanzania, Kenya, France, and Belgium.

Nevertheless, the government of the Rwandan Patriotic Front [RPF] in Kigali continues to categorically refuse any dialogue with the RDR. Nzabahimana accuses the government of "ill will." It even vetoed the inclusion of the RDR in the regional discussions which former U.S.

President Jimmy Carter has already organized on two occasions.

"The meeting in Bukavu was partly intended to provide the RDR with greater legitimacy through the approval of a basic text and a wider representation," explains Nzabahimana. His organization originated in the informal discussions held 18 months ago in the Walloon town of Froidmont and later acquired a more legal and organized structure in the form of the RDR.

Dialogue

By presenting clearcut positions to the outside world the RDR has sought to achieve greater credibility. The congress stressed the importance of dialogue with all parties. It conceded that genocide had taken place, condemned it in the strongest possible terms, and refused to give protection to the murderers in any way or to condone the settling of scores between citizens.

"We are calling for a widening of the mandate of the International War Crimes Tribunal for Rwanda. This must be able to investigate the genocide in a wider context, taking into account everything which happened

in Rwanda since the outbreak of civil war on 1 October 1990," adds Nzabahimana.

Less clear is the attitude of the RDR to the soldiers of the defeated government Army and the "ordinary" killers. According to Nzabahimana they must be treated in the same way as the other refugees. Anyone who has committed a crime must appear before the courts and be punished. A general amnesty is not a good solution.

The RDR believes that an extension of the UN tribunal's mandate should also allow it to conduct an inquiry into the attack on the aircraft carrying President Juvenal Habyarimana on 6 April 1994. "There are enough hypotheses regarding this attack," adds Nzabahimana somewhat angrily. "But there has been no serious investigation. We do not understand this and even find it odd that both the United Nations and France and Belgium are apparently opposed under all circumstances to discovering the truth. There are dozens of valuable witnesses, the people in the control tower at Kigali airport for example, but not one of them has been questioned. I should like to know who has what to hide or to protect."

Somalia

Somalia: Fighting Erupts in Mogadishu Between Rival Militias

*AB1904165496 London BBC World Service
in English 1505 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] South Mogadishu is a battleground again. There had been a lull in the fighting between General Aidid's militias and those of his former financier Osman Ali Ato. It first erupted three weeks ago. Gen. Aidid returned to Mogadishu from his stronghold at Baidoa, west of the city, and tension has been building, and now fighting has broken out again and is described as the most serious for a long time. From Mogadishu Ali Musa Abdi faxed this report:

The heavy fighting erupted this morning. At least 19 people have been killed and another 47 wounded, and Ato's spokesman, Abdi Hassan Qeybdiid, blamed Aidid for starting the latest fighting. He said Aidid's forces began shelling civilian and militia areas at around 0300. However, within hours the fighting had intensified with militiamen using small arms, machineguns, and antiaircraft missiles.

Qeybdiid said that his USC-SNA [United Somali Congress-Somali National Alliance] forces had neutralized six of Aidid's technicals, adding that the bodies of Aidid's men lie scattered over the battlefields. He said that Gen. Aidid was personally in charge of his forces at the former Mogadishu milk factory.

According to reports, the heaviest fighting has taken place at Digfa hospital and around the strategic junction on the main road linking the capital with southern Somalia. Osman Ato's forces have set up an emergency medical post at the former American Compound, after Aidid's forces blocked all the roads leading to the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross]-run Ketane hospital in north Mogadishu. There has been no word yet about the fighting from Aidid or any of his supporters.

Meanwhile Ali Mahdi Mohamed also accused Aidid of bombarding his supporters in the Mediina district of north Mogadishu. Other areas of the city are quiet but tense as fears grow that the fighting will spread.

Somalia: USC-SNA Spokesman on 'Unprovoked Attacks' by Aidid Forces

*AB2104152496 Mogadishu Voice of the Somali
Republic in Somali 1115 GMT 21 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] A chief spokesman for the USC-SNA [United Somali Congress - Somali National

Alliance] defense forces said warmonger [faction leader Muhammad Farah] Aidid and his group last night at 2300 carried out unprovoked attacks on USC-SNA forces positions in Mogadishu.

During the attacks, Aidid and the misguided members of his militia suffered unforgettable destruction and defeat. The spokesman said the USC-SNA forces inflicted deaths and injuries on Aidid's gunmen, destroyed two vehicles mounted with heavy machine guns, and captured a large quantity of arms and military hardware.

The spokesman expressed his profound gratitude to the USC-SNA forces of Mogadishu sector for the gallant counterattacks against warmonger Aidid. The spokesman wondered why youths fighting for Aidid, despite the lack of care shown toward them, could not learn a lesson from previous armed incidents. Finally, the spokesman warned other members of Aidid militia who were not indigenous to Mogadishu to keep away from the fratricidal hostilities and leave the city immediately.

Somalia: Aidid Reportedly Takes Over Martini Hospital

*EA2104193696 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice
of Somali Pacification in Somali
1630 GMT 21 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from reliable sources say that this afternoon warmonger [Muhammad Farah] Aidid, using militia, forcibly removed 220 injured people and other patients from Martini hospital in Mogadishu.

The reports said these people, who had been thrown out, used to get treatment and care from international relief agencies in the country and were now littering the streets near the hospital.

The aim of Aidid's takeover of the hospital, the reports said, was to make it a military base, given that he had lost his former army bases.

South Africa: FM Nzo Calls For Lifting of Sanctions on Libya

MS1904120996 London THE TIMES in English
19 Apr 96 p 15

[Report by Inigo Gilmore: "West angered by South African support for Libya"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Johannesburg — A Call by Alfred Nzo, the South African Foreign Minister, for the lifting of United Nations sanctions imposed on Libya in connection with the 1988 Lockerbie bombing has again raised concerns over the country's foreign policy initiatives and sets President Mandela's Government on a collision course with the West.

Diplomatic officials from Britain, France and the United States in South Africa were yesterday having urgent discussions on the best way to voice their displeasure over what is seen as "another foreign policy glitch".

Mr Nzo made his comments on Wednesday night at the end of a controversial three-day visit to the North African state. He told his Libyan counterpart, 'Umar al-Muntasir that he fully supported Libya's "invitation" to end its current crisis with Western countries over the bombing of the Pan Am jumbo over Lockerbie, in Scotland, in which 270 people died. He also said South Africa supported the lifting of "unjust sanctions" imposed in 1992 on Libya by the UN Security Council after its refusal to hand over to Britain or the US for trial two suspects in that bombing.

Mr Nzo also stepped into the dispute over alleged chemical weapons production in Libya, airing assurances from his counterpart that no such plant was under construction. This month, the US accused Libya of producing chemical weapons at a secret plant and did not rule out military action against the plant.

The South African administration, led by the African National Congress, has repeatedly rebuffed attempts by the US and other Western governments to influence its relationship with countries linked to terrorism and dubious human rights records. Earlier this month, Mr Nzo visited Iran and announced the two countries were near concluding an oil storage agreement.

President Mandela has made plain he will stand by countries that supported the ANC in its apartheid struggle.

South Africa: Foreign Minister Reacts to Israeli Attacks in Lebanon

MB1904173896 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network
in English 1510 GMT 19 Apr 96

[From the "PM Live" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Announcer Greg Davidson] The South African Government today condemned Israel's attack on the UN base in Lebanon in which over a 100 people have now been killed. On the line is Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Aziz Pahad. Mr. Pahad, what are your central concerns about the Israel reaction?

[Pahad] Firstly, for some time now, we've been warning that the escalation of conflict in the Middle East was reaching very dangerous proportions. This latest attack against a refugee sort of camp just highlights the escalation of the conflict, and we believe if it continues this way it can blow up into a much bigger configuration which will have an effect on stability and peace throughout the world, and therefore we as a government of national unity have been trying to do everything possible within our capacity to call for restraint, and to call for a negotiated solution to this problem.

[Davidson] How do you decide when to issue a statement? For example, you didn't issue statements on Turkish action with regards to Kurds or what's happening in Chechnya; why specifically this conflict?

[Pahad] No, we do, we assess every issue on the basis of which we make statements. This is of course the Middle East conflict, especially after the peace processes have shown some successes; we then had an escalation with the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin, the suicide attacks in Israel itself, and now the attacks against Lebanon. Now the Middle East is an area which has always been a hot spot where if the conflicts are not contained, and if peace did not come about, could explode into a conflict which will affect all countries in the world, and it's becoming now a threat to international peace and security. And this is why the United Nations Security Council is now discussing this. On two occasions in the last few days the General Assembly is discussing it again, and we ourselves have met all sides in order to hear their concerns about the situation, as well as asking us to do what we can do to help sort of bring about some stability in the area.

[Davidson] What role do you see South Africa playing specifically?

[Pahad] We must be quite frank. In one sense we can play a role because of the stature of the president, and the democratic processes in South Africa, and the high

esteem that we are held in many forums, but we can only attempt, as we've been trying to do, talk to all sides, asking for the Resolution 425 to be accepted by all sides, and giving political support where it's possible to help the peace process. And we are in touch with all sections and trying to express our views and asking them what they think we can do.

[Davidson] Thank you very much. That's Aziz Pahad, deputy minister of foreign affairs.

South Africa: Report Says Ramaphosa 'Pushed' From ANC's Front Ranks

MB1904192396 Johannesburg MAIL & GUARDIAN in English 19-25 Apr 96 p 4

[Report by Gaye Davis]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cyril Rampahosa did not jump, he was pushed. His decision to opt for a corporate position was not his first choice: he would rather have been finance minister. But he found his political options closed off as Deputy President Thabo Mbeki moved to consolidate his power, and this amounted to a shove.

His decision to leave politics has fuelled concerns within the African National Congress and its alliance partners that were set off by the dismissal of former posts, telecommunications and broadcasting minister Pallo Jordan.

Founded in an increasingly unhappy relationship between the ANC as a party and the ANC in government, the concerns centre on a felt lack of consultation and debate within the movement and a watering-down of the glue that held the party together during its years in exile — the pluralism that allowed for a "broad church" that could accommodate diverse political views and talents.

A key question being asked this week was why moves to ease Ramaphosa out went ahead when an (admittedly informal) consensus — which included Ramaphosa — had already been reached that Mbeki would succeed President Nelson Mandela and that there would be no bloody leadership contest.

The resultant shift in power in government has fed concerns about a new culture and style of politics emerging. Cabal is not the word being used, but there is talk about the ascendancy of groups taking decisions outside ANC constitutional structures. While their right to meet is not disputed, concern is mounting over the possibility of such meetings being used to shunt capable people, such as Jordan and Ramaphosa, from the political frontline.

These anxieties are feeding into a wider concern: that ANC and alliance structures have been marginalised in

terms of determining policy and strategy, particularly on the economic front, and that this is feeding suspicions of elites — business and political — pacting at various levels.

Mbeki is now in a strong position to determine the country's economic trajectory. He is in charge of transformation. But when he announced the government's plans to privatise state assets, labour saw this as him aligning himself with old economic establishment agendas.

The decision to close the Reconstruction and Programme (RDP) office, without any simultaneous articulation of a clear policy to take reconstruction and development forward, also sparked concerns about a lack of both consultation and forward-thinking on a cornerstone policy of the ANC — although the decision itself was felt to be correct.

Concerns emanated not only from within the ANC and the alliance, but also from foreign governments which frame their aid agreements around the RDP and were perplexed by the sudden closure of the office.

Labour's head-on response to the South Africa Foundation's Growth for All strategy is evidence of attempts by the democratic movement to get its act together and regain lost ground. Discussions are under way within the alliance to develop a more coherent approach.

Ramaphosa has said he is being "deployed" in his new job as executive deputy chairman of New Africa Investments Limited (Nail) to spearhead black economic empowerment. He will be part of a joint bid by Nail and the National Empowerment Consortium (NEC) to buy Anglo-American's 48% share of industrial group Johnnic, of which the newspaper group Times Media Limited is the major interest.

But, news of his decision — leaked soon after he began a round of consultations with senior ANC members and organised labour — came as a surprise. Some believe Ramaphosa is acting out of pique. While this element cannot be discounted, it is not the driving force behind his decision.

That his move was not discussed within the ANC leadership or structures has raised questions — such as who deployed him, with what mandate, and underpinned by what strategy? Parallels were being drawn this week with a similar unbundling that took place after the Nationalist Party came to power in 1948 when Afrikaners were given a slice of the big business pie.

Another concern being expressed was the absence of a collective approach by the ANC leadership in planning career paths for senior — and valued — members. The view is that deploying people in business may be the

right move, but that it should be decided collectively, rather than being a case of "bump and push".

It is known that Nail has carried out a long flirtation with Ramaphosa: when he indicated an interest in going into business ahead of ANC leadership elections in 1994, it was in response to an early overture from Nail's chairman Dr Nthato Motlana.

The MAIL & GUARDIAN has it on good authority that Ramaphosa had his eye on becoming finance minister once he discharged his duty of steering through the new Constitution, and that he was given indications this would become a reality. However, these then evaporated — and the job went to former trade and industry minister Trevor Manuel. Mandela's statement that there would be no further reshuffle is said to have been the last straw.

While COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] responded with a wait-and-see attitude to his decision, Nail's linkage with the NEC — with its mining, clothing and textile union interests — does offer Ramaphosa possibilities to plough virgin territory and develop a broad support base.

Trade unions want to use their pension funds to generate profits, but members will hold their representatives to their mandates, will want report-backs and will expect spending on social development.

But there are those who are disappointed Ramaphosa did not opt for focusing on his position as secretary general of the ANC. After his election to the post in 1991 he was plunged into negotiations. On his re-election in 1994 — after being persuaded to stand by Mandela, who rallied provincial support for him — he took on the job of co-chairing the Constitutional Assembly, again at Mandela's insistence. He has been able to devote little time to the job, which has been performed mostly by his capable deputy, Cheryl Carolus.

Ramaphosa said this week the possibility of his staying on until fresh leadership elections at the ANC's national congress in December 1997 was under discussion and that he would abide by any decision of the leadership, indicating that he was keen on keeping his options open.

South Africa: Ramaphosa Notes 'Breakthrough' in Constitutional Process

MB1904143696 Johannesburg SABC 2 Television Network in English 0500 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] An enormous breakthrough has been made during all-night constitutional negotiations in Cape Town. After major concessions from the ANC, the Constitutional Committee agreed to a cultural commission and group rights, opening the door

to Afrikaner self-determination. Agreement was also reached on almost the entire constitution during the marathon session. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [announcer Prudence Solomon] The Constitutional Assembly chairperson, Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, is in our parliamentary studio to speak about the breakthrough. Good morning, Mr. Ramaphosa, and thank you for joining us.

[Ramaphosa] Good morning to you.

[Solomon] Must have been a long night! Can you tell us briefly what you have achieved?

[Ramaphosa] Well, we've achieved a tremendous amount. We have almost completed the whole constitution. There are very few issues outstanding. I guess the most significant of the issues that we agreed on was the decision to have a commission on cultural affairs. That is going to be a commission that will promote and ensure that we protect the cultural affiliation of people, and also to make sure that there is a great deal of tolerance among all South Africans on cultural issues, and it will also help to promote things like languages and so forth.

[Solomon] Does this not encourage self-determination?

[Ramaphosa] Not necessarily. Although this matter was proposed by the National Party and the Freedom Front, it is essentially an issue which recognizes the diversity of the cultural affiliations of South Africans, and it is not for Afrikaners only, it is for all South Africans. It will be a commission on which will sit South Africans from various racial groups, and together they will be able at a national commission level to promote culture among South Africans and to demonstrate the full diversity of the culture of all South Africans.

[Solomon] And the property clause was a most critical issue. What agreement has been reached?

[Ramaphosa] We have a political agreement on the property clause. The technical side of the agreement still has to be finalized. We are satisfied that we now have a very good basis, we have a good foundation for finalizing and settling the property clause. Tremendous progress has been made and we will just finalize a few technical issues that have to be done by drafters.

[Solomon] And what are the outstanding issues?

[Ramaphosa] The key outstanding issues are around the bill of rights, the lock-out issue; we still need to find each other there. Then there is the education matter, and then there is the language matter. But I believe that having resolved the question of the cultural commission, we have now laid a very, very good

foundation for reaching agreement on these others, and I believe that we have now irrevocably taken a step forward to finalizing the entire constitution and adopting it on 8 May. We made tremendous progress last night. All the members of the Constitutional Committee were committed to working throughout the night, and not a single one of them even nodded or started falling asleep.

[Solomon] Now the bill is due to be printed on Sunday [21 April] and distributed to the parties on Monday. What's the next phase?

[Ramaphosa] Yes, it will be printed on Sunday, distributed on Monday, and then on Tuesday we hold our first Constitutional Assembly meeting to debate the bill in its entirety, so that will be the first reading. The parties will then make statements on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thereafter it is taken back to the committee stage, and the committee then starts looking at amendments, whatever amendments parties want to propose.

[Solomon] Mr. Ramaphosa, could I just ask you, finally, how many submissions did we receive from the public of South Africa?

[Ramaphosa] We received more than 2 million submissions. Toward the end we received well over 19,000 submissions around the fourth draft of the constitution. That has shown that a great deal of people in our country have been very keen to participate in the constitution-making process. We are very excited about it; it shows that people are very positive, and they would like to see a solid constitution that will represent their hopes and their aspirations.

[Solomon] Mr. Ramaphosa, that you very much for joining us.

[Ramaphosa] You are most welcome. [end recording]

South Africa: Final Constitution Bill Draft To Be Published 22 May

MB1904150496 Johannesburg S Afrm Radio Network in English 1400 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The bill on South Africa's final constitution will be available on Monday, according to Constitutional Assembly spokesman Pat Govender. He said the draft agreements were being finalized before printing on Sunday. Constitutional negotiators approved provisions for the bill this morning after an all night session.

Agreement was reached on a host of significant issues in bilateral and multilateral talks at parliamentary venues. However, five major matters remained outstanding. They are education, language, lockout provisions in the labor clause of the Bill of Rights, the Property

Clause, and judiciary provisions on whether there should be a national attorney general. The Constitutional Assembly's special negotiating committee agreed that the issues should be addressed again next week when the full assembly is expected to start debating the Constitutional Bill. Chapters on which agreement was almost completely reached included those dealing with local government, provinces, Parliament, the president, and the national executive, the Preamble, public administration, and security services.

The IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] said it didn't accept the adoption of the final draft of the Constitution as it hadn't participated in the constitutional process. IFP Secretary General Ziba Jiyane said the Constitution should be representative of all people.

South Africa: COSATU To 'Push Ahead' With Labor Demands for Constitution

MB2104150496 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1439 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JOHANNESBURG April 20 SAPA — The Congress of South African Trade Unions [COSATU] would push ahead with labour demands by mobilising thousands of its members to mount a 24-hour strike, general secretary Sam Shilowa said on Sunday.

Ending a three-day conference, COSATU leadership decided to launch a general strike on April 30 after marathon debates on the new Constitution on Friday [19 April] left several labour issues in limbo.

One of the issues COSATU has opposed is putting a lock-out provision in the Constitution. The provision would allow employers to bar employees from their workplaces. Assistant general secretary Zwelinzima Vavi said COSATU was against the provision because it was not a basic human right and had no place in the watershed document.

Another issue COSATU was opposed to was a property clause in the document guiding government to respect private property. The clause, Vavi said, could hinder people from getting land back lost during apartheid-era land legislation.

Shilowa told a 300-strong crowd that all affiliate unions needed to pull together to change working conditions in the country. "As a working class organisation, we have to organise our members so we can have economic freedom [words indistinct]," Shilowa said.

Delegates at the conference resolved to refuse work weeks that were more than 40 hours and to keep a ban on overtime work. A "rigorous" campaign would be launched so workers got better parental rights including

a six-month paid maternity leave; five days paid paternity leave a year; 20 days paid child-care leave per year; and better child-care facilities.

Merging COSATU with other unions, would be a critical step in transforming the public sector, COSATU said in the conference. "Restructuring must seriously address the question of reducing the existing public sector wage gap, the re-deployment of people who could lose their jobs during the restructuring...and affirmative action," the union coalition said in its resolutions.

Members would have to be educated on the new Labour Relations Act to be implemented in July 1996. Members needed to be briefed on procedures for strikes and codes against sexual harassment — an issue that still needed to be negotiated with other parties outside COSATU.

Shilowa said COSATU needed to strive for a living wage but negotiating for a set amount should not be sectoral. "There are areas that are weak and disorganised such as domestic workers. We can't just say a living wage can be negotiated at a sectoral level."

ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said in a statement from Durban the ANC supported COSATU's opposition to a lock-out provision in the Constitution. "During the next two weeks the workers, students and citizens of this country will be articulating their support for a fully democratic constitution," the ANC said. "In this they have the full backing of the African National Congress."

However, the final decision whether to give full backing to the strike action rested with the constitutional structures of the ANC. "In this regard, the constitutional structures of the ANC will discuss COSATU's proposals with a view to taking a decision on the matter."

South Africa: Mandela Says No Indication IFP To Leave Government

*MB2004180096 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1753 GMT 20 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DURBAN April 20 SAPA — President Nelson Mandela on Saturday said Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader and Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi had not indicated that he intended withdrawing from the government of national unity.

Buthelezi said last week he would consider pulling out of the government if local government elections scheduled for May 29 were postponed in KwaZulu-Natal. "He has not given any indication whatsoever that he wants to pull out of the government," Mandela told journalists after addressing teachers and pupils at a school in KwaMashu north of Durban.

Mandela said anyone that withdrew from the government of national unity would be lagging behind the rest of South Africa which was united and focused on nation-building and reconciliation. "The government of national unity is extremely strong. I have not the slightest fear about the future because the people of South Africa are united."

Addressing about 15,000 African National Congress supporters, Mandela urged pupils to return to school in KwaMashu where a week-long teacher boycott brought schooling to a stop after the Easter recess. Teaching stopped at 75 schools in the township and affected about 80,000 pupils. The murder of a teacher during a school assembly in March prompted the teacher boycott to demand stepped up security at teaching institutions in the township. The murder was believed to be related to a conflict in the township's L section.

Mandela said focus groups would try to get to the bottom of the conflict and to resolve it. He warned that police would act against all criminals, whether they were members of the ANC or the IFP.

Mandela was on a two-day visit to KwaZulu-Natal as part of the ANC's election campaign ahead of the proposed poll next month.

South Africa: ANC Says Buthelezi's Arrest Remarks 'Irresponsible'

*MB2204115296 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1129 GMT 22 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town April 22 SAPA — Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi's weekend statements that the country would be burnt to ashes if he was arrested, was irresponsible and incompatible with his position as a Cabinet Minister, the African National Congress said on Monday.

"Chief Buthelezi must understand that in the new democracy, nobody including Chief Buthelezi himself, is above the law. And, if there are reasons to arrest him, the law will have to take its course," ANC KwaZulu-Natal spokesman Dumisani Makhaye said in a statement.

He was reacting to statements made by Buthelezi at Sunday's launch of the IFP's local government campaign in the Western Cape. The Home Affairs Minister was responding to Sunday newspaper reports alleging that he was linked to the operation at the centre of the murder trial of former defence minister Magnus Malan.

Buthelezi reportedly warned authorities that "if somebody wants to risk burning this country into ashes, let them arrest me".

This statement was so inflammatory that it "encourages a culture of impunity", Makhaye said. "The people of South Africa are sick and tired of repeated threats of violence by Chief Buthelezi whenever he disagrees with something. Chief Buthelezi must be warned that the new democracy cannot be blackmailed by any individual or groups of individuals. It is capable of defending itself."

The ANC believed that "even within the IFP there are men and women of integrity and who are law abiding. These are men and women who will defend the rule of law in South Africa irrespective of who is affected".

South Africa: Buthelezi Says Afrikaners 'Crucial' to Reconciliation

*MB2004162496 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1447 GMT 20 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MONDLO April 20 SAPA — Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said on Saturday Afrikaners were crucial in reconciling the country and in the upcoming local government elections in KwaZulu-Natal.

"Afrikaners are here to stay," Buthelezi said in an election speech in Mondlo in northern KwaZulu-Natal. "We must build an African Jerusalem, a society built on the caring and sharing philosophy of Ubuntu (human values), not on the ANC's concept of confrontation and selfishness."

Calling proposals to nationalise unproductive land "hard-line and Marxist", he said unused land should be given to the people not to the central government, an idea allegedly proposed by the ANC. Buthelezi added that no land had yet been given back to people who lost tracts during apartheid's 1913 Land Act. "The ANC has talked big, while they deliver nothing."

The central government was also looking at ways to own communal land in KwaZulu-Natal that had been placed under the protective ownership of the Ingonyama Trust. "The Minister of Land Affairs has his hands on communal land and has even amended the Ingonyama Trust Act indicating that the ANC-led government is not prepared to pass on this land to the people of KwaZulu-Natal."

Traditional leaders would be affected by this, as well as being affected by a constitutional proposal to set up elected municipalities in traditional areas. "The new Constitution wants to scrap the centuries-old traditional democracy that has kept the Zulu nation intact and functioning," he said.

Business, Buthelezi said, agreed to be supported by government not directed by it. "They (the ANC) want a Big Brother government which tells business what to

make, how to sell it, even what price they can get for their products," Buthelezi charged.

South Africa: Buthelezi Says IFP Always Committed to Nonviolence

*MB2104145896 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1422 GMT 21 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN Apr 21 SAPA — The Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) had never deviated from its commitment to non-violence, party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said on Sunday.

Referring to reports in Sunday newspapers regarding "the farrago of smears and false innuendoes concerning Operation Marion", Buthelezi said "never have I been in any way associated with violence against anybody, for any reason, let alone political reasons". Addressing about 400 people at the launch of the IFP's local government election campaign in Cape Town, Buthelezi said that throughout his political career he had pursued non-violence as the only way to solve South Africa's problems.

The IFP had nothing to fear from the truth, "just so long as the rest of the media don't fall for the ANC's big lies during this campaign". The South African public should recognise the report for what it was — yet another production from the ANC's "dirty tricks department", he said.

In their panic over the certainty of losing the elections in May, they had dressed up "a pile of old, stale stories" as news. "Because the ANC know that I am innocent of any wrongdoing, they are attempting to engineer a trial by media", Buthelezi told the gathering of local government election candidates and party supporters. "In other words, they want journalists to do their dirty work for them", he said.

He was confident that the responsible media would not fall for this kind of "smear tactics that the ANC are putting out".

South African Press Review for 20 Apr

MB2004144196

[FBIS Report]

SATURDAY STAR

Truth Commission Worth It — "We will all have to admit that the painful process of confronting our worst fears has been worth it," Johannesburg SATURDAY STAR in English says, in its 20 April editorial on page 10, about last week's first hearings by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The editorial adds: "The cathartic experience has firmly sent the nation on a

path of true healing. More importantly, the hearings have finally laid to rest fears that the process could divide the country and ruin our fragile democracy. Any notion that the commission would be one-sided was also dispelled this week as more than a third of the cases discussed involved atrocities committed by the liberation movements."

South African Press Review for 21 Apr

MB2104142496

[FBIS Report]

RAPPORT

Group Rights in Constitution Praised — A page 20 editorial in Afrikaans in the Johannesburg RAPPORT on 21 April begins: "At this point it is wise to utter some comments about the soon-to-be-completed new

constitution." It continues: "Several issues of cardinal importance, for example, the education and property rights issues, are still deadlocked. However, against this background one must admit that the recognition of group rights negotiated at an all-night session is a giant step forward to reduce the potential for conflict in the country." "What is left is for formal recognition of group rights to be enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and relevant legislation. For the ANC it was undoubtedly a difficult deviation from its firm view that only individual rights be protected in the constitution. The ANC has always maintained that recognition of group rights would entrench existing divisions among South Africans and would encourage another form of apartheid." "The ANC deserved credit for being sensible and moving in line with international trends on this issue."

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe: President Mugabe Discusses Economic, Political Issues

MB1904210196 Johannesburg SABC 2 Television
Network in English 1900 GMT 18 Apr 96

[Interview with Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe by SABC correspondent Reggie Morobe in Harare on the "Focus" program; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Morobe] Good morning, and welcome to our program, His Excellency Dr. Robert Mugabe. If the president looks back, is there anything that His Excellency would have done better or differently?

[Mugabe] Perhaps there are very few things that we would have done differently. Once we established our independence, the process was really one of adjusting to the realities of our country, and we found we had to decide on whether we should follow a policy of retribution and go against those who fought against us — Ian Smith and company — or we should work out a policy of national reconciliation. We decided on national reconciliation. We did that because we believed that only in an environment of peace, and not conflict, not a disturbed environment, could we really begin to move forward. We adopted a pace which was moderate; the resources were, perhaps, not as ample, and I believe that there are areas which we emphasized — overemphasized in some cases — at the expense of others. We emphasized more education, more health delivery. We had a policy of education for all, health for all, by the year 2000, and in the process of our emphasizing education, building schools, and making education available to every child, well, we did not at the same time also look at what would happen. At the end of the day, these children got educated, came back from school; would they have enough jobs? And so our emphasis on job creation, at that time, was rather slow, and this is an area which has lagged behind, where we could have probably made much greater effort.

[Morobe] So one wonders whether, was the ideology, political ideology, and possibly developmental ideology, taken forth in a situation where it stifled economical development?

[Mugabe] No, there was no ideology which really, in practice, stifled economic development. As we fought the war, the background of our movements were the same. We had ideological inputs from China, from the Soviet Union, which all amounted to Marxist-Leninist, and my party was Marxist-Leninist. We said we would want to see a socialist society here, but when we started — and if you read our manifesto, the first one — we

said, the realities demand that we be practical. There is a capitalist background, capitalist infrastructure in the country; we can't change it overnight; we have also the traditions of our people to look at. Sure, they had socialism built in a communal system, which allowed individual, shall I say, prosperity. People could own things, but there were certain things they could do together. And so we did not implement our ideology at all. We accepted things as they were, and to continue as we found, you know, the situation. And so, really, our ideology did not stifle the economy. We were short of resources from the very beginning.

[Morobe] The economy within the country — it is reported that at the moment only two percent of that is controlled by the African people, the black Zimbabweans, and the rest is controlled by the minority in the country?

[Mugabe] That's a sad, sad development, especially 15 years after our independence.

[Morobe] Does it mean the indigenization didn't actually work accordingly, or it failed completely?

[Mugabe] No, we actually were promoting indigenization, but not as thrustfully as we are doing now. At the time we left it to the individuals. We said: as long as you have the opportunity, there it is, you participate as best you can. And I remember in 1980 addressing African businessmen and saying to them: now, stop having the notion that when you run a bottle store, or a little retail shop with coca cola, sugar, bread, that you are running a very, very useful enterprise. Yes, it might be useful to the extent of giving service to the community, but we want you to get to production, because these items are produced, and it is only when you participate in production that really we can say you are making an input into development, and, we left it to the individual. But now, regretfully, we are saying we should not just have left it to the individuals, we should have actually organized the individual blacks to participate. The opportunities have been there, but the resources have not been there, and we should have made resources available.

[Morobe] Now since the president is beginning the new term, six-year term, the constitution could actually enshrine indigenization?

[Mugabe] We don't have to enshrine it in the constitution. The opportunities are there — freedom, the freedom of the individual, to express himself, to establish business. It's all there in the constitution, and that's all you need. But what you need is the impetus, and the impetus can come from the availability of resources, and of course from generating the spirit among individuals, and only yesterday I was talking to one group which

is the Affirmative Action Group, and is one of those which took a lot of my time, and it is a group of very young businessmen who think the madalas [old people] have been rather too slow.

[Morobe] IMF, World Bank, have actually set some instructions into how they can inject funds into the country, and some of it has been to the state to say cut down on spending, state spending, but yet at the same time that put people out of jobs from the government?

[Mugabe] The IMF prescription is not always that salutary, and in some cases actually has very negative results. But there is no denying the fact that where government expenditure is excessive it has to be cut down. But my argument has always been — in a developing country, especially emerging from a colonial system where people have been just hewers of wood and drawers of water, and they have not participated in production as entrepreneurs, that it is absolutely necessary to have resources. You have got to develop their educational capacity, and that means development of skills. It means putting more money into the system of education. But also, you have got to look at their health, it means more health, and yet the IMF was saying as far back as 1980, '81, '82 — your expenditure is too high on these services — and we rejected their theory, we rejected their prescription at the time, and they withdrew their aid, and we said fine, we will go it alone. Later on they came and admitted that we had been right in having an educational system for all. They were saying you can't educate everybody at the same time. We were saying: who do you choose to make ignorant? And so there it is, I agree with you, the IMF prescription has delivered more negative results than positive results, and retrenchments are with us now. There is no remedy they give to alleviation of the retrenched people. They prescribe what they call the social dimension fund. But you have got to have funds, and the funds must come from revenue.

[Morobe] The election that has put His Excellency on to the new term — so what people said was almost an apathy, 30 percent or so turned up?

[Mugabe] People were geared for the election, and you have these playing tactics, you see, the tactics of their masters, Muzorewa and Sithole. One drops out just a week or two before the elections, and another on the eve of the elections when people were gearing themselves to go and vote, and the people say we have won, and some started celebrating on that day. It is the day I was in Pretoria and I made a statement to the effect that I was going to vote so as to give direction to the people, but of course how many got that signal? Others refrained from going. I don't say there wouldn't have been some

sections of the people saying it is useless to vote, but certainly that reduced the voting.

[Morobe] The reason they dropped out is that His Excellency had absolute power, at the end of the day being a contender and even coming back and saying, I have a decision on the results of the elections?

[Mugabe] What absolute power do I have? We all go into elections — and members of Parliament — every five years, presidential elections every six years. I didn't have any absolute power; less still did I have the power that was equal to what Muzorewa had; that Muzorewa and Ian Smith had in 1980 when we conducted the elections, but we beat them all the same. We were moving on our feet, we were moving in wretched cars, etc, and they were placing bombs everywhere. I was missed several times, lots of my people were shot at during that time, but we still won the election. But this time we didn't shoot at them like they shot at us in 1980. We didn't harass them in any way.

[Morobe] They said the state used the media which it controls to harass them?

[Mugabe] They also were given time on radio, lots of time. But what did they say? Absolutely nonsense — no program, nothing to counter our own programs, nothing to counter the history of our own performance. They were just there to say: Mugabe has done this, well, it's time you changed and...[pauses] People require a message, people want to see in your party a possible successor to the ruling party at the moment. But when all is said and done, my brother, the position is: People still regard us as their liberators, it will take time for any party to make headway, just as it would take time in South Africa for any party to defeat the ANC.

In Namibia, time will be required for a new party, really, to come up with a program that will defeat SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization]. There is that to reckon with. We are a formidable force for now, but the future obviously will have its own circumstances.

[Morobe] Part of the electioneering reiterated again on the fact that land resettlement and redistribution is going to be pushed even faster, but however, acknowledging that it took 15 years, it has not yet happened to the satisfaction of His Excellency. What is different that is going to actually make it happen faster?

[Mugabe] When we came from Lancaster House with an independent constitution, it had clauses, some of which were entrenched for seven years, others for 10 years. It was a racial constitution. It had entrenched in it the right of the whites to be represented by whites only for seven years at least, and they, having 20 of their

100 seats, came in Parliament. They are now 120. And then in regard to land, we couldn't acquire it except on a willing buyer, willing seller basis. So even if government wanted the land, it had to bow down to some farmer, and say please sell us your land, and if he said no, that was it, you couldn't force him. We waited for 10 years, because that was entrenched for 10 years, it couldn't be changed until 10 years had lapsed, so after 10 years we have changed that rigidity, and now we acquire land whether the owner likes it or not. And this is what delayed, and of course, another delaying factor has been lack of resources, capital. We had to buy the land. We are saying now, no, our ancestors were never paid for the land, we will not buy it. I was telling the Councillor of the Exchequer, Mr. Clark, when he came here, that this was our argument anyway at Lancaster House. Nkomo and I argued that we didn't have to compensate the present owners of the land because our ancestors had not been compensated, and we cannot tax our people to buy the land. We will pay for the developments on the land, the improvements on the land. If there's a dam, a house, fine, the person who owns that kind of land deserves compensation, but not for the soil, nobody ever bought it from us.

[Morobe] Some of the farmers allege that this is their home, and this is also where they've been, and they bought the land for them to make this their home, why...

[Mugabe interrupting] From who? From [Cecil] Rhodes, they will say. Most of them were given by Rhodes initially, but later the government sold pieces of land after owning most of the country. But it was never bought from us, and we deserve compensation even now. And so we are saying to the farmers we want land from you because we all need in excess of [pauses] in fact the land they need for their agricultural purposes. You have farmers owning seven, eight, 10; as for multinationals like Union Carbide, Anglo-American, they own in some cases half a million hectares, and we say lots of that land, some of it is used purely for ranching purposes. Let us have some of that land back, but every farmer, white or black, who wants to farm in the country will still have land. We will not make it impossible for the farmers to own a farm, no.

[Morobe] But some of are saying that might put a dent on the peaceful reconciliation that has actually been achieved by Zimbabwe?

[Mugabe] My brother, it sounds like some fable my grandfather used to tell me. A man comes into your house, seizes your home, drives you out. You go and build some wretched house elsewhere, and he says now you are my brother. True, this home belonged to you, but now we are in new circumstances of peace. Let's

have amity; let's shake hands. He still has your house, your home. You can only shake hands with him when he has returned your home to you. We brought peace, yes. We brought national reconciliation, and the whites have got to be thankful to us. We want (them), some of them might become Zimbabweans, but they still own more land than they are able to use.

[Morobe] And people are saying it's because of that slow land resettlement that actually resulted in the low turnout at the previous elections, where possibly people are seeing the promises not being able to be carried out.

[Mugabe] On the contrary, there was very much high turnout from the rural areas where you have peasants, and don't forget we are still a very rural population here. Nobody in town here, Zimbabwean, is totally urbanized. We all are rooted in the rural areas, yes, and it's the rural people who turned out in larger numbers and they have greater faith in government. True, they would want to see more land come their way but that wasn't the reason. I would have understood you if you had said there is some apathy in the urban areas because of retrenchments, lack of jobs, and rising prices, against a background of very low pay.

[Morobe] The reports given out by CZI [Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries] was that Zimbabweans now are 35 percent worse off since 1990.

[Mugabe] Partly true, partly untrue. Partly true to the extent that we have had since 1990, especially from 1992, devastating droughts — 1992 was the worst of all years that we have had, and last year was also very bad, very devastating drought and if agriculture does badly, manufacturing sector leaning as it does on agriculture for inputs, the textile industry, clothing industry, then you get the milling companies, oil extracting companies and even pharmaceuticals, depending as they do on industry, naturally, will do badly during those years; I mean depending as they do on agriculture and therefore they take to retrenchments as the more easier course to them, and that means of course people go without incomes. At the same time people in the rural areas also are out of pocket because their cotton will not have done well, their maize will not have done well, and soya beans and other products will not have fared well, so yes, to that extent they are right but I say it's only partly true. People have actually had an improved economic status since independence. If they are looking only at the short period between 1990-96 they may be right, but they should look at what the people were before independence and what they are now.

[Morobe] Is the media in Zimbabwe on a way to being suppressed?

[Mugabe] No, the media has remained what it is. We don't suppress any media at all. Obviously, when media publish lies, well, we react to those lies but we have not banned a single paper. They have, some of them which were in opposition, have run into their own financial problems but we have not in any way, you know, frustrated them by governmental or legal action. Not at all.

[Morobe] There's been rumors around his excellency's health. What is the state of your health?

[Mugabe] [laughs] I'm not a boxer like Mandela, but I'm fit enough to go into a political boxing ring with anybody, and as you saw I knocked out Muzorewa and Sithole quite easily. I'm very fit. The papers, of course the media, especially some of your papers down south would want to portray the negative, always the negative. The British papers — I have no friends amongst the British and I don't care at all — they were more friends of Ian Smith during the struggle than friends of the liberation struggle, but let them tell the truth. I certainly am not unhealthy.

[Morobe] And is His Excellency worried about his successor?

[Mugabe] No, I'm not ... [pauses] why should I be worried about — you mean about the possibility of being succeeded? No, there will have to be a successor when the time does come. How can you have a country with a party that has no leader. When one leader gives sway another must take his place. That naturally will come, but as to when it will come we wait until my term of office expires.

[Morobe] And finally, some of the reports that reached us was questioning or wondering whether his excellency would make his partner the first lady. Would that be happening?

[Mugabe] [laughs] I was asked this question the other day by the American papers. Well, wait until it happens. I'm sure it will happen one of these days.

[Morobe] Your Excellency, thank you very much.

[Mugabe] Thank you.

Zimbabwe: 1996 Tobacco Crop Expected To Earn \$4 Billion

MB1904070196 Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE (THE FARMING GAZETTE Supplement) in English 11 Apr 96 p 18

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Conservative estimates indicate that Zimbabwe's flue-cured tobacco growers, major suppliers to the unmanufactured international leaf market, will this year earn the country a whopping \$4

billion [Zimbabwe dollars] if the international tobacco price rally which commenced last year continues.

Well-placed industry sources were this week unanimous that the tobacco industry, the country's premier export earner, was in "for an exciting period" as all signs pointed to firm prices. They attributed the expected firm prices to diminishing world tobacco stockpiles. [passage omitted]

Zimbabwe: 'Militant' Business Magnate Seeks To Change Tobacco Industry

MB2104133396 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1028 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] HARARE April 21 SAPA — The auction season for Zimbabwe tobacco opens this week with promises of pickings bigger than ever before for growers and merchants, but the pre-season buzz has been soured by a militant black business attempt to take control of the industry.

Roger Boka, a old-time black tycoon with powerful links to the ruling ZANU-PF [Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front] party, is making a bid for the entire 1996 crop of Virginia tobacco. He is notorious for a long-running campaign of newspaper advertisements that vilify whites and "Uncle Tom" blacks.

Zimbabwe's [figures indistinct] kg of flue-cured Virginia tobacco is the mainstay of its economy — last year it was worth US\$412 million.

With the backing of an influential German company whose shareholders include international corporate heavyweights like Siemens, Bayer, BASF, Phillips and the Berliner Bank, Boka is asking for tenders to purchase the entire crop from the world's biggest tobacco exporter. On Harare's southern outskirts, Chinese bulldozers are clearing 12.5 ha that Boka bought for about R3 million [rands] for what he declares will be the world's biggest auction floor. The auction house will be ready for business on May 23 with a staff of about 300, a fully computerised service and kitchens serving "man-sized breakfasts" for the growers.

For Boka, the purchase of the 1996 crop is the crucial battleground in his war to take domination of Zimbabwe's economy out of the hands of whites who "killed their (black) brothers and sisters". He claims — wrongly, economists insist — that 98 per cent of the economy is controlled by whites and demands government action to force whites out and replace them with "indigenous" Zimbabweans.

He graphically illustrated his views in an advertisement with a photograph of a huge python, representing

blacks, crushing the life out of a crocodile, which stood for "former Rhodesian Selous Scouts disguised as economists and accountants". The time had come, he said, "to clean our society for once and for all".

Boka's opinions are too much for a wide spectrum of Zimbabwean blacks. The widely-read **FINANCIAL GAZETTE** newspaper last week dismissed him as a racist. Black middle and senior executives and professionals shake their heads at his crude rhetoric.

Little is known of the background of the former small town insurance salesman. Two years ago, however, senior Zimbabwean intelligence sources were quoted in a report here as saying that his offices were shared by self-confessed former Civil Cooperation Bureau (CCB) agent Arnoldus van Eck, who also admitted to acting as a patron to the "indigenous" business lobby in Zimbabwe to set up drugs and stolen car rackets.

But Boka appears to have prodigious influence in high places. Last year he set up his own merchant bank and, unlike other banks who are required by law to lodge 17.5 percent of their cash deposits with the central bank, only put down 5 percent. Two months ago the central bank also granted the first licences for private purchases of alluvial gold. The only two licences granted were awarded to vice-president Joshua Nkomo's troubled Development Trust of Zimbabwe, and to Boka.

Boka made a disastrous first foray into the tobacco industry last year after the government changed the licencing criteria. In the last few weeks of the auction season, he bought a massive 15 million kg of poor quality leaf. Industry sources say he managed to sell five million kilogram to the Chinese and the rest is still in a Harare warehouse, much of it mouldy and unsaleable. Establishment business in Harare says Boka's vast financial outlay for his bid for the tobacco industry is so reckless it can only crash spectacularly.

But in the meantime, he is making a determined effort for a major change to the laws regulating tobacco marketing to strengthen "indigenous" involvement.

The jitters in the tobacco market, senior business executives say, have less to do with his bizarre bid than with the radical alteration of the rules for fair play in business. The alterations promise to chase away foreign investment the country is wooing, wipe out the substantial edge Zimbabwe's leaf enjoys in international markets and critically handicap the country's environment for doing business — all in the name of institutionalised racism.

Liberia

Liberia: Fighting Resumes Around Monrovia 19 Apr

AB1904163596 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 19 Apr 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite intensive diplomatic efforts, fighting is continuing in and around the Liberian capital, Monrovia. There was supposed to be an agreement yesterday for the west African peace-keeping forces, ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group], to deploy and replace militias of rival factions. For 12 days, Alhaji Koromah's ULIMO [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia]-K [Koromah faction] and Charles Taylor's NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] have been fighting supporters of Roosevelt Johnson who is wanted on murder charges. They later seized the Barclay Training Center [BTC] barracks and the city has been wide open to chaos and anarchy. Talks have also been going on at the American Embassy with Krahn supporters of Johnson, all to no avail so far. Skirmishing has continued and spread to the outskirts of the city as Nyenati Allison reports in this telex from Monrovia:

Fighting flared up this morning between the combined forces of Charles Taylor's NPFL and Alhaji Koromah's ULIMO and AFL [Armed Forces of Liberia] troops at the Schieffelin military barracks, 19 miles east of Monrovia. All morning, the boom of mortars were heard forcing thousands of civilians from villages near the barracks to flee the area. Two AFL officers, based at Schieffelin, arrived at the besieged BTC barracks this morning after fleeing along the beach. In a telephone interview, they said that the fighting around Schieffelin had been going on for the past 11 days, but that it had intensified this morning after ULIMO and NPFL forces began mortar attacks on the barracks. Skirmishes also erupted today near the St. Theresa Convent High School, south of the city center after supporters of Roosevelt Johnson sneaked behind NPFL positions in the area. The street battles lasted for nearly half an hour before and NPFL artillery vehicle moved in with heavy gunfire, forcing the attackers to flee back into the BTC. Just as the fighting around the convent ceased, two armed personnel vehicles of the African peacekeeping force drove by with a delegation of Johnson supporters for a second day of peace talks at the American Embassy. Sources attending the talks said that Johnson's eight-member delegation included some of his own supporters as well as representatives from the Liberian

Peace Council, the AFL, and university students seeking refuge at the BTC.

According to a statement released by his representatives, Johnson is willing to discuss political issues with Charles Taylor and Alhaji Koromah but only in the presence of the ECOWAS Committee of Nine.

Liberia: Some '7,000' Refugees Take Shelter in Orphanage

AB1904183996 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 19 Apr 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Despite intensive diplomatic efforts, fighting is continuing in and around the Liberian capital, Monrovia. [passage omitted]

But the real victims of the fighting are inevitably the civilians. Thousands have fled their homes. They now is open hunger and disease. Cholera is already rife in the city and the most vulnerable are, of course, the children, especially orphans, but their needs tend to get swarmed when a whole population is on the move as our reporter, Jonathan Peyley discovered when he visited an orphanage on the outskirts of Monrovia. He telexed this report:

[Peyley] When I arrived at the orphanage yesterday, I discovered that some 7,000 civilians had taken shelter there. Hundreds of new arrivals were sitting beside their bundles of personal effects outside the orphanage which is located in an abandoned building in the western suburb of (Matadi). The orphanage, run by SOS Children's Village, normally houses about 500 orphans, some of whom are as young as six months. It now faces a serious food crisis. The caretaker, Gabriel Merchant, who met me on arrival, was visibly emotional as he explained the plight of the orphanage in front of a crowd of malnourished children. He told me that the children had not had regular meals since the displaced people began pouring into his center last week. He said the orphans are now receiving only one meal a day, because food supplies donated by Charles Taylor and the World Food Program are being used to cater for hundreds of additional displaced children sheltering with their families at the compound. The center has not received regular food supplies since the fighting in Monrovia forced relief workers to pull out of the city; and to make matters worse, the only generator supplying the orphanage with electricity had run out of fuel.

Liberia: Rebel Leaders Accept Ceasefire; UN Officials To Visit BTC

*AB1904204196 Paris AFP in English
2004 GMT 19 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Monrovia, April 19 (AFP) — Leaders of Krahn rebels and thousands of others under siege and threatened by cholera in an army barracks in the Liberian capital have accepted a ceasefire, a U.S. diplomatic source said Friday [19 April].

The decision emerged from negotiations at the U.S. embassy where agreements were also reached on the release of foreigners trapped in the barracks, and on the deployment of West African peacekeeping forces in the city, the source said.

United Nations officials were due Saturday to assess the situation in the Barclay Training Center [BTC] where thousands have been packed for two weeks under catastrophic, life-threatening conditions, lacking food, water and medical supplies, surrounded by forces of Liberia's controlling factions.

Under the ceasefire accord, the Nigerian-led West African peacekeeping force ECOMOG is to ensure security of the Krahns and to maintain order elsewhere in the city.

It is also charged with providing humanitarian assistance to thousands in the compound threatened by a cholera epidemic which has already claimed dozens of lives in addition to more than 100 dead in the violence.

"General" Roosevelt Johnson was not at the ceasefire meeting, but was represented, as were the Liberian Armed Forces and the Liberian Peace Council.

At the embassy, the commander of the West African peacekeeping force ECOMOG, Nigerian General John Inienger, together with the special Liberia UN representative Anthony Nyanki and a Ghanaian peace mission met Krahn representatives brought along under ECOMOG escort.

Monrovia was plunged into bloodshed on April 6 after Liberian police tried to arrest Johnson on a murder charge on the orders of the collective presidency, formed under a peace accord aimed at ending the conflict.

Five ships of the U.S. Navy including a helicopter carrier were off Sierra Leone on Friday steaming for Liberia on standby to protect the U.S. embassy in Monrovia, rent by civil strife.

During the day, ruling factional groups had continued to besiege the Barclay center, a former barracks of the old Liberian army filled with insurgents and thousands of their family members and hostages.

Skirmishes continued between the besieging factions led by Charles Taylor and Alhaji Kromah and the Krahns inside the camp.

Seven West African countries on Friday appealed to the international community, particularly the United Nations to take "the most energetic steps to deal with the situation which is developing dangerously in Liberia."

The demand emerged from a Nouakchott summit of members of the Agreement on a Non-Aggression and defense Assistance: Burkina-Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Niger and Benin.

While diplomatic efforts went on Friday, the assailing forces around the Barclay center fired sporadically at the rebels. Witnesses said the Krahns replied in kind, wounding at least three attackers.

Nigerian troops of the ECOMOG peace force who were supposed to be restoring order observed the scene from a safe distance, witnesses said.

Liberia: Foreign Nationals Released From Barclay Training Center

*AB2004142196 Paris AFP in English
1321 GMT 20 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MONROVIA, April 20 (AFP) — Seventy-eight foreign nationals, most of them Lebanese, were released early Saturday [20 April] from the Barclay Training Centre where they had been held for two weeks, a diplomatic source said here.

Most of the released foreign nationals were taken to a base of the west African peacekeeping force ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group].

The foreign nationals had been held ever since factional fighting broke out in the Liberian capital on April 6 between Krahn rebels holed up in the Barclay camp and forces loyal to Liberia's collective presidency besieging the centre.

The release of the detainees came a day after the opposed factions agreed to a ceasefire.

Liberia: ECOMOG 'Security Zone' Set Up Around BTC

*AB2004195496 Paris AFP in French
1514 GMT 20 Apr 96*

[Article by special correspondent Christophe Simon]

[FBIS Translated Text] Monrovia, 20 Apr (AFP) — Some 78 foreigners, most of them Lebanese, were released this morning from the Barclay Training Center

[BTC] where they had been held for 15 days before the arrival of the U.S. marines at the U.S. Embassy, journalists in Monrovia noted.

Most of the foreigners released were taken to the base of the west African peacekeeping force, ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group]. ECOMOG has already started deploying its soldiers in several districts of the city in accordance with a cease-fire adopted yesterday by the collegial presidency in agreement with the leadership of the Krahn community.

This morning, following a calm night, disturbed only by a heavy storm, a ship belonging to the U.S. Marine Corps was visible off the coast from the Mamba Point. Some 10 helicopters dropped some 190 U.S. marines and several Humvees of Gulf-War fame at the U.S. Embassy compound, the journalists noted.

About 40 Lebanese nationals, some of them diplomats, and their families who were kidnapped on 6 April, are among the number of foreigners released.

Six Pakistanis, including a woman and two children, freed from the BTC in the morning, were immediately driven to the U.S. Embassy in a mini-bus belonging to their consulate, an AFP journalist noted. They hoped to be evacuated from the embassy in helicopters belonging to the U.S. Army.

Today, several hundreds of foreigners, including Nigerians, Ghanaians, and Sierra Leoneans were still in the BTC where Krahn fighters are being held for two weeks by the joint forces of Charles Taylor and Alhaji Koromah, both members of the collegial presidency formed by the Abuja Peace Agreements in August 1995.

Several thousands of civilians, relatives of fighters and refugees, were also present in this camp.

An ECOMOG armored car penetrated into the BTC and rapidly came out of it under the applause of some people standing by. It was also noted that ECOMOG has begun setting up "a security zone" around this barracks belonging to the Armed Forces of Liberia [AFL] mainly made up of Krahns.

The ECOMOG "seriously" began to deploy its forces in Monrovia this morning, journalists noted. Officers, holding portable radios, accompanied soldiers who before being deployed, fired shots into the air to disperse the fighters who were still in some districts of the city. Since dawn, UN vehicles, painted white, participated in this operation by dropping small groups of soldiers at various crossroads in the city. Several corpses still littered the streets in down town Monrovia and the Mamba Point diplomatic quarters and residential areas.

The inhabitants of the capital, stupefied and with an incredulous air, began to come out of their homes today, opening the doors and window panes that had protected them from the bullet shots over the past few days.

The Liberian national radio which had stopped transmitting a fortnight ago, at the beginning of the fighting that ravaged the capital, resumed broadcasting on 21 April [date as received] and has announced the release of some 78 foreigners.

The "release" of the "foreigners who have sought refuge" at the BTC — the word hostage was not used — was one of the points of the cease-fire plan raised yesterday afternoon by the international community before the Krahn leadership at the BTC. It was accepted. Apart from the releases and the observation of the cease-fire, this plan envisaged the installation of an ECOMOG "security zone" around the BTC, the rehabilitation of the cease-fire monitoring committee, and the supply of humanitarian assistance.

Liberia: ECOMOG Troops Unable To Stop Looting in Monrovia

*AB2004204196 Paris AFP in French
1830 GMT 20 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Monrovia, 20 Apr (AFP) — The Economic Community of West African Forces Cease-Fire Monitoring Group [ECOMOG] began deploying slowly in Monrovia today, in accordance with the cease-fire agreement brokered yesterday, without, however, putting a stop to the looting. Some four armored vehicles, equipped with heavy weapons, were posted at strategic points along the coast, while 25 others were protecting the U.S. Embassy in the Mamba Point district.

ECOMOG troops were also patrolling the town center, Center, Benson, Broad, and Guerly districts. Yesterday evening, Krahn community leaders holed in at Monrovia's Barclay Training Center [BTC] accepted a cease-fire providing notably for the deployment of ECOMOG troops around the camp and the rest of the capital. This deployment has, however, not stopped fighters from plying the streets in stolen cars.

Lately accused of passivity, and even complicity with the looters, the peacekeeping troops tried to intervene today — without much success. "We tried to stop them, but they clearly outnumber us," observes a Nigerian soldier of ECOMOG. A Lebanese trader adds, "they know that ECOMOG soldiers have orders not to shoot."

A fighter comments, "law and order do not exist here." "I shall kill someone this evening, if they play with me," he told Chocolate City residents at Garnersville, while

stealing a vehicle parked in a private garage. "They have looted vehicles, shops, and now houses," sobs a Lebanese trader whose shop has been devastated.

For his part, one of the foreigners freed yesterday evening from Barclay Camp, together with his family, a Pakistani Muslim leader, said he had just had a "terrible, very rough" experience. Questioned by journalists at the U.S. Embassy, just before he was evacuated, he described the 12 days he had just spent at the BTC as "the most painful experience" of his life in Liberia. "We suffered a lot. Everybody suffered a lot," he said. "They did not set upon us or persecute us. They simply prevented us from leaving." He continued: "They kept telling us: You are at the BTC to save your lives."

Liberia: Armed Forces Staff Chief Killed; 127 Hostages Released

AB2104124896 Paris AFP in English
1207 GMT 21 Apr 96

[Report by James Dorbor]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MONROVIA, April 21 (AFP) — Liberian gunmen entrenched in a besieged military barracks along with thousands of civilians released 127 people on Sunday [21 April], 71 of them foreigners, peacekeepers said.

The Nigerian-led African peacekeeping force known as ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African Forces Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] said it had obtained the release as part of a ceasefire agreement reached Friday between the gunmen inside the base and two rival militias that have been surrounding it for the past two weeks.

The Krahn fighters inside the barracks, called the Barclay Training Center, freed 78 foreigners on Saturday. Most of them were Lebanese.

The peacekeepers said that the ceasefire that brought about the releases was being respected Sunday by both the Krahn forces trapped in the Barclay camp and the pro-presidency troops loyal to warlords Charles Taylor and Alhaji Kromah surrounding them.

"The ceasefire has been respected," an ECOMOG spokesman said. "We hope this time around the factions will show goodwill and sincerity to keep the ceasefire in place."

The ceasefire was brokered here last week Friday by US diplomats and representatives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The truce came two weeks after bitter factional fighting first rocked Monrovia on April 6, when forces loyal

to ousted Krahn "General" Roosevelt Johnson resisted attempts to arrest him on murder charges.

Johnson is believed to have sought refuge at the Barclay camp after fleeing his residence, as his supporters were joined by fighters of the Liberia Peace Council and Liberian regulars to fight off forces loyal to Taylor and Kromah.

Conditions inside the barracks are reported to be horrific with cholera spreading among refugees and hostages lacking food, water and medical care.

Under the ceasefire deal, Taylor and Kromah are to lift the siege on the military barracks, while Krahn fighters are to release all foreign and Liberian hostages they have been holding in steadily deteriorating conditions.

The deal also stipulates that the rival militias withdraw from the streets of Monrovia to allow the deployment of ECOMOG peacekeepers. Taylor and Kromah gave orders Saturday for their troops to withdraw from the city centre, and ECOMOG forces took up positions in the city centre.

ECOMOG had been criticized earlier for failing to protect United Nations and relief agency installations as fighting raged over the past two weeks.

The violence has claimed more than 100 lives. Bodies litter the streets of downtown Monrovia and the residential and diplomatic area known as Mamba Point, which includes the US embassy.

One of those killed was the chief of staff of the Liberian armed forces, AFL, "General" Mohamed Doumuyan, according to a government statement released Sunday.

The statement read out on state-run ELBC radio said Doumuyan was shot in the back and killed by Krahn fighters near the Barclay camp while trying to negotiate the release of foreign hostages.

It did not say when the incident occurred.

Liberia: ECOMOG Commander Says Security Situation Returning to Normal

AB2104190296 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 21 Apr 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Now, if the current Liberian cease-fire does take hold, it will give ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] a chance to recover some of the credibility it lost in recent weeks when it was forced to stand aside while the factions exchanged fire and looted homes and shops, displacing thousands of

civilians. On the line to Monrovia, Elizabeth Ohene asked ECOMOG field commander, Major General John Inienger, what the security situation was in the city tonight:

[Begin recording] [Inienger] Well, I would say that things are gradually returning to normal. As at today, ECOMOG is everywhere in the city center. The troops of the factions that had deployed in the BTC [Barclay Training Center] are gradually going back to the BTC and those that came from outside are being assembled at designated sites or points for onward trucking back to their areas.

[Ohene] So, exactly what is the situation at the Barclay Training Center?

[Inienger] At the BTC, as you must have known, a couple of days ago the foreigners were released, some of them are here with us in the ECOMOG base, some have found their way out of the country, some have rejoined their relations in town. The Liberians who were there are beginning to come out now that ECOMOG is deployed in the city. They are beginning to go to their houses and pick up what is left in their houses. So, the BTC gate is open, people are coming out, I was there this morning myself. I passed by the gate, all the streets adjacent to the....[pauses] surrounding the BTC, and as a matter of fact the people, they are very, very happy.

[Ohene] Do you have enough troops, General, to be able to do all these things that you now have to do?

[Inienger] As you know, when you get to a situation like this you have to put aside your task. At the moment, our foremost task is to return the city of Monrovia to its original status of a safe haven. Therefore, it calls for massive deployment of troops so that we can be able to patrol the streets to keep away hooligans and those who have been looting the city. Therefore...[pauses] and this is why it was decided to thin out our troops who were deployed in the countryside for disarmament which, like you know, with the present happenings, has to be readdressed. So, at the moment, we are thinning our troops from the front to come back to the city center for redeployment so as to maintain normalcy in the city.

[Ohene] Now, I wonder what morale is like among your troops. You must be feeling rather fed up now?

[Inienger] No, no, we are Africans and you know in Africa we believe in being our brother's keeper and, therefore, given that concern, we cannot feel fed up, particularly so when our political masters are equally concerned. As you are aware, the chairman of ECOWAS has sent a delegation here which has been here throughout the whole week and working assiduously to returning Liberia to normalcy, to ensuring

that this situation is brought under control. So, given that kind of concern and that kind of commitment by our political leadership, as troops and as soldiers of the subregion, we cannot but ensure that this noble cause is pursued to a successful end. [end recording]

Nigeria

Nigeria: India Solicits Support in Bid for UN Security Council Seat

AB2204100796 *Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 0600 GMT 22 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has called for Nigeria's support in her bid for the Asian nonpermanent seat in the United Nations Security Council. The seat is to become vacant in October this year. Speaking to newsmen in Lagos, a special envoy of the Indian Government, Mr. Malik Mansingh, said that India would serve as a voice for developing countries in the Council if she secured the seat.

The envoy also said that his country would work through its representation to strengthen the interests of the Non-Aligned Movement in global security at the United Nations.

Nigeria: Minister Says Team To Participate in Atlanta Olympics

AB2204095696 *Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 0600 GMT 22 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Nigeria will participate in the Atlanta Olympic Games in the United States later in the year. The minister of youth and sport, Chief Jim Nwobodo, stated this in Makurdi at the closing ceremony of the 10th national sports festival. Chief Nwobodo said that the clarification became necessary following conflicting media reports that Nigeria is boycotting the games, which means that no preparation was being made. [passage omitted]

Nigeria: Electoral Commission Dismisses 10 Directors, Two Officials

AB2204100396 *Kaduna Radio Nigeria in English 1700 GMT 21 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ten directors and two administrative secretaries of the Nigerian Electoral Commission of Nigeria, NECON, have been sacked. Sources at the national headquarters of the commission in Abuja explained that the officers were removed for offenses ranging from fraud, maladministration, and leakage of classified information. Those sacked include the director of research and statistics, Dr. Uzoh Nwabiali; the director of finance, Alhaji Amshi; the deputy director

of finance, Mr. Ukaar. Others are the deputy director, logistics and planning, Alhaji Ahmed Datti; the deputy director, works and transport, Mr. Ekweme; the assistant director, logistics and planning, Mr. Okereke.

The rest are the deputy director, research and statistics, Dr. Husaini; the deputy director, welfare and training, Mr. Matite; and the assistant director, estate, Mr. Ofeng. Similarly, the administrative secretaries of Kogi and Benue States, Hajia Harabe Adamu, Mr. Tony Ojukwu, have been removed. The sources said the removal of the officers were part of a reorganization of the commission's personnel towards the challenges of future elections.

Nigeria: 'Precautionary' Steps Taken To Improve Security at Airports

AB2204095296 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 0600 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Precautionary measures have been taken to enhance security and forestall acts of terrorism at the country's airports. The measures include the introduction of devices for detecting firearms, explosives, and the use of security officers for proper screening of passengers and other airport users.

The managing director of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria, Alhaji Sani Baba, said the measures were made particularly stringent at Murtala Muhammed International Airport. Alhaji Sani said the measures became necessary because of the recent explosions believed to be bombs in parts of the country.

Nigeria: Military Administrator Explains Reason for Sultan's Arrest

AB2004205196 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Ibrahim Dasuki, has been removed from office by the Sokoto State Government.

In an announcement to the people of Sokoto State this evening, the military administrator of Sokoto State, Colonel Yakubu Muazu, gave eight reasons for the government's action.

They include Alhaji Dasuki's apparent disregard for constituted authority by engaging in diplomatic matters without the knowledge and permission of the government and failure to account for monies donated for the building of mosques by foreign governments and organizations.

Nigeria: Sokoto Calm After Muslim Leader's Dismissal

AB2104125696 Paris AFP in English 1229 GMT 21 Apr 96

[By Jacques Pinto]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LAGOS, April 21 (AFP) — The spiritual leader of Nigeria's Muslim community was sacked overnight by the military government and a night-time curfew imposed in the northern state of Sokoto where he lives.

Intense consultations were underway Sunday between traditional chiefs in the Islamic northern region, where the country's political and military leaders often come from, to find a successor to Sultan Ibrahim Dasuki, the highest Islamic authority in Nigeria.

The situation was calm Sunday after a huge military build-up in the state capital, also called Sokoto, to prevent unrest. A curfew has been imposed across the state from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m (1800 to 0600 GMT).

The dismissal of Dasuki, 73, was announced late Saturday by the state's military administrator Colonel Yakubu Muazu in a radio broadcast.

Muazu accused the sultan, who wields considerable political as well as religious clout, of misuse of funds donated for the building of mosques and financing of other religious activities.

He also said Dasuki would probably go before a special tribunal for his alleged part in a financial scandal linked to the collapse of a bank of which he was a member of the board of directors.

The sultan is also accused of going beyond his duties by having high-level diplomatic contacts without government authorisation.

His lawyers had denied any wrongdoing on Dasuki's part before one of the special courts set up by the military regime as part of measures designed to clean up Nigeria's banking system.

Dasuki was taken by plane under police escort to the federal capital Abuja. Sources close to the presidency said the sultan was then deported to Jalingo, capital of Taraba state which borders Cameroon.

The Sultan of Sokoto had since 1988 been president of the National Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs.

Earlier this week, the Nigerian press reported that the Muslim leader was believed to be involved in a financial scandal linked to the collapse of the Alpha Merchant Bank.

The sultan — an Oxford graduate, former diplomat and prosperous businessman with interests in banking, food, textiles and aviation — was reportedly on the bank's board of directors.

In addition, the Nigerian press has reported the sultan used his connections with Saudi authorities to prevent the departure of Nigerian Muslim pilgrims for Mecca.

Saudi authorities have this year banned Nigerian pilgrims, citing a meningitis epidemic which has gripped Nigeria since December. The ban provoked anger among Nigerian Muslims, who make up 47.2 percent of the population of more than 100 million.

Last week, the military regime of General Sani Abacha hastily despatched another prominent Islamic figure, Alhaji Ado Bayero, emir of Kano in northern Nigeria, to Saudi Arabia to attempt to revoke the ban.

The emir succeeded in obtaining entry to Mecca for 3,000 Nigerians on the condition they be vaccinated and come from regions unaffected by the epidemic.

One of the reasons for the discord between the sultan and the military regime is the presumed involvement of the sultan's son, retired lieutenant colonel Sambo Dasuki, in a failed coup in March 1995 which, the authorities say, was designed to topple Abacha. An arrest warrant has been issued for his son.

Nigeria: Authorities Name Replacement to Sacked Sultan

*AB2104173996 Kaduna Radio Nigeria in English
1700 GMT 21 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A new Sultan of Sokoto has been appointed. He is Alhaji Muhamadu Maccido, the Sarkin Kudu Sokoto. Alhaji Muhamadu Maccido succeeds Alhaji Ibrahim Dasuki who was removed yesterday.

Speaking at a traditional installation ceremony at the Sultan Bello Mosque, Sokoto, the secretary to the state government, Alhaji Alinu Nahuche, described the selection of Alhaji Maccido as well-deserved. The ceremony was attended by the state commissioner of police, (Alhaji Bulat Ars), members of the state Executive Council, the Amirs of Gondu and Argungu, Alhaji Mustapha Jokolo and Alhaji Muhamadu Mara.

The Sultan, Alhaji Muhamadu Maccido, is to pay a courtesy call on the military administrator, Colonel Yakubu Muazu, who will hand over his appointment letter to him. It will be recalled that about eight years ago, Alhaji Muhamadu Maccido was first declared the Sultan of Sokoto but later Ibrahim Dasuki was named as the chosen sultan.

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